



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 6, 2015

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Place: Francis Tuttle, Rockwell Campus, Oklahoma City, OK

Welcome/Call to Order

Chair Steve Hendrickson called the meeting to order. Steve said it is a new day and a new way for this Council, figuratively and literally. Gov. Fallin reconstituted the Council and this is our first meeting.

Welcome to all – new and old members. Steve asked Council members to self-introduce themselves, say who they are affiliated with and how long they have been on the Council.

As a review of what the purpose of the Governor's Council is and what it does, he referred everyone to the Orientation Manual that was provided to each member and directed everyone to Tab 3. Chair Hendrickson said that once you conclude the mandated educational process, whether that is K-12 or some form of post-secondary education, there are basically three paths you can take in the state of Oklahoma.

1. You can go to work for someone who pays you a wage – you become an employee of someone.
2. Another path is you have a set of entrepreneurial skills where you can create wealth on your own and perhaps employ people one day.
3. You go on public assistance.

Simply put, everyone in Oklahoma is in one of these three categories. By and large, the role of this Council is to do everything that we can do to make sure that the first two categories are the vast majority of Oklahomans and not the third category. Recognizing that there will always be a need for folks who are unable to make a living on their own, we want to positively influence those who have the skills necessary to enter the workforce where someone will pay them for their skills or have the skills necessary to create their own business and create wealth for the world.

In order to make this all happen in the state of Oklahoma, there is a very large group of educational providers: public school system, home schools, private schools and infinite choices beyond K-12 for credentials, 2-year degrees, 4-year degrees, etc. There are vocational/technical schools, community colleges, comprehensive universities, etc. that are available for training once you get out of high school. The part of the space that this Council is involved in is the federal workforce system, which in its simplest form, is a federally-funded, state-managed, and locally-controlled service delivery system. It is the only one like it in the world. What it does is to pick up the folks who don't have current skills that enable them to enter the workforce or enable them to create their own wealth through an entrepreneurial skill set and they can go to something called a One-Stop Center or a Career Service Center where a person who does not have sufficient skills to let them succeed can go and get those skills.

The purpose of this Council is to take a look at the trends that we see that come up from the locals who say this is what we're seeing in our particular area and we have a need for "X" kind of skills and "Y" kind of skills and we need to make sure that we're spending the money on helping these folks get these kinds of skills because in our area, this is where it's needed the most.

Deidre Myers added that under Tab 3 there is an organization chart for Oklahoma Works which is led by the Governor. Oklahoma Works is a much larger workforce and economic development strategy for the state. This includes a tremendous amount of resources including all of the state money that goes to education - Career Tech, Higher Education and all around. Oklahoma Works and the kind of feedback that the Governor wants to hear from you does include state money. When we talk very specifically about

WIOA (the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act), and the programs that are happening in the nine local areas that we have, that is Title I money which is federal funding. (There is not a state match.) WIOA also has four partners and four different kinds of funding streams. We have the Department of Rehabilitation Services, Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, and Career Tech as well as us.

Steve said the WIOA is the federal law and its various titles are the buckets of money that provide training to those that need it. So, for purposes of today, that's probably as far as we need to go but there is a lot of detail in the orientation notebook. This is a system that responds well to incremental change. Also, ones who sit on this Council rarely have the opportunity to meet the people who are served by this system. He would like to encourage each of the new members on the Council to attend the WIA Alumni Celebration to be held on November 12 at 1:00 p.m. at the State Capitol in the House Chambers. Each of the nine Workforce Investment Boards in the state will present an award to a person who has been through the system, who has benefitted from the services provided under the leadership of this group and has all been administered by the local workforce boards throughout the state. That is the one place we can go every year and hear the stories of those who are impacted by the work that you doing here. It is an annual event and open to the public. Steve highly recommends it because it shows us what the system does and how it impacts people's lives.

Steve said that Gov. Fallin has made it clear that this is one of the top areas of emphasis for her term. She has just concluded nine different meetings throughout the state to get input from private sector and public partners on the workforce system, workforce needs and requirements. That whole system is called the Key Economic Networks or KENs. Each KEN is being led by a business person and the public sector partners in nine different regions of the state. It is geared toward all of the various training efforts that are going on and helping employers and entrepreneurs feel safe in sharing what it is they need for skills in their respective areas. We will be saying more about that in the coming months and there will be some reports generated from the meetings.

The Governor's Council is unique in the states because of its purview. In any other state in the Union, what this Council would do is provide the infrastructure and the backing and the decision-making that would administer the work that the local workforce boards do. That would be all that we would do and that is what our colleagues in other states do, with a couple of small exceptions. The reason that this Council is unique is because we have a much broader purview. We still administer the local workforce boards but we actually do that through one of our standing committees and it's not something that we micro manage as a group. What we really concern ourselves with is trends, data analysis, and recommendations to the Governor on how best to meet training requirements.

Steve said that now that the newly reconstituted Council is up and running now, the next task is revision of the bylaws. We do have some ideas for committee structures based on the work that we have ahead of us. We will appoint an ad hoc committee to take in recommendations on how the Council is structured and operates and we will refine things. Steve asked for volunteers to serve on the ad hoc committee and he said that he would lead the effort. Please let him know after the meeting who would like to serve on the committee.

Approval of Minutes

Chuck Mills made a motion to approve the June 26, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Jim Curry. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

To benefit the new Council members, Steve explained the purpose of the consent agenda. This is a public meeting but we have never conducted it in a way as a public forum, so we haven't permitted folks to actually address the Council from the public. It's kind of like our Legislature or appointed officials. We are appointed to these positions so we do our best to represent our constituencies. One of the things you can do in a public meeting is to do a consent agenda. What the consent agenda does is it is basically a timesaving mechanism where we can group things that are deemed to be routine where the Council can as an option take action on a group of items. Any Council member can as an option pull any one of these items for individual consideration so you don't have to leave it all in the consent agenda. In other words,

if there is something on here that you want to talk about in detail, all you have to do is make a motion, get a second and we'll pull it off of the consent agenda and we can discuss it as you wish. So Steve asked if there are any items on the consent agenda that anyone would like to pull out for discussion. There were none.

Steve explained that the items on the consent agenda are a follow-up from the previous Council's actions. By law, we are newly reconstituted. Under the new federal law (WIOA) it requires the Council to confirm what the previous Council did so it is in full force and in effect under the new law.

Steve asked for a motion to approve agenda item #4. Chuck Mills made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Valerie Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Orientation Notebook

This is a nice, concise summary of what the Council does. Deidre explained that we will have welcome and orientation meetings for all members, old and new. There will be several meetings in different parts of the state in order to accommodate everyone. She gave an overview of each tab in the notebook.

Under Tab 2 for Council Membership, Deidre explained that we have 25 seats on the Council that are required by the federal law, 13 of them are from private business. Those 13 are comprised of two each from our five ecosystems: aerospace & defense, ag/bio, energy, information & financial services, and transportation & distribution. We also have two seats from healthcare. This is a new function of the Governor's Council. The state statute states there will be a new healthcare subcommittee and an emphasis on healthcare workforce. We also have ex-officio members that are leaders of our public agencies. They are here to work with us and to give resources and feedback to the Council.

She explained that wealth generation is a goal the Governor has for all Oklahomans and described the ecosystems for the state and the projected workforce demand and that we want to train Oklahomans for the jobs that are going to be here in the future.

Katie Altshuler said on behalf of the Governor, she wanted to thank all existing members and new members of the Council for being here today. The work we are doing is critically important work to the Governor and this work is urgent. Gov. Fallin will only be in office for three more years and there is a lot of work to be done. We have big jobs ahead of us and the Governor appreciates the commitment that you are making to do this for us.

Organizational Structure

Chair Hendrickson said that there will be an Ad Hoc Committee that will look at the bylaws, structure of various committees, etc., and hope to have it all in place in January 2016. We will approach each member and ask for engagement and by the time we meet in January when the Governor will be attending, we should have our committee structure up and running at that point.

2016 Calendar of Meetings

A motion was made to approve the Calendar of Meetings schedule for 2016 by Chuck Mills, a second was made by Chris Hitch. No further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Other

- Chuck Mills announced that the State Workforce Youth Council will have a meeting on Friday, December 11, at Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, Student Center, 3rd Floor, from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. Everyone is invited to attend. Deidre explained that previously we had a sister

council to the Governor's Council that was the Governor's Youth Council. This was a broad and all-encompassing council in terms of early childhood development all the way through late teens to early twenties in terms of employment. Going forward with the new WIOA and the new structure of the Governor's Council that we have, we want the Governor's Youth Council to be much more specific and task oriented to early childhood development, education, prevention and development. So we are looking at ages 0-14 and what we need to do in terms of policy and support to make sure no young person in Oklahoma gets off track and to make sure these young people have the resources they need to be going forward and have the mental, emotional and intellectual development to be the engineers and doctors and all of the occupations that we need going forward.

So in looking at the Governor's Council's strategies, we will most likely have a subcommittee on young adult employment which is very different. It is about those young adults in Oklahoma who have gotten off track, age 16-24. With very specific funding that we have, we can help get them back on track in a wealth generating, sustainable employment opportunity.

Chuck's group, the Governor's Council State Workforce Youth Council, is very much oriented into development, prevention, education and how we work as a state to have the best opportunities for our young people.

- Steve Shepelwich suggested that it might be a good idea for Council members to go around the state and meet with the directors of the local workforce areas. He has enjoyed doing that and getting to know them.
- The WIA Alumni Celebration will be on November 12 at the State Capitol, House Chambers. All are encouraged to attend this outstanding event.
- The Workforce Partners Conference will be on April 20-22, 2016, at the Cox Convention Center.

Next Meeting Date

The next Governor's Council meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 29, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. and will be held at Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:14 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Emrich*